- Introduction of unleaded petrol in entire country.
- Introduction of Euro-II emission norms for the whole country and Euro-III norms for 11 mega cities.
- Introduction of Euro-II and Euro-III compliant fuel for the whole country and 11 mega cities respectively. This includes reduction in Sulphur and Benzene contents in diesel and petrol.
- Introduction of cleaner fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) in a few polluted cities.
- Introduction of improved Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification system.
- Setting-up continuous air quality monitoring stations in 16 cities.
- Initiation of source-apportionment studies in six cities.

Wildlife conservation by Army soldiers

2639. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that army soldiers in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East will be engaged in wildlife conservation;

(b) if so, the rationale of the decision and its possible impact on already stressed army personnel;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is also contemplating funding/sponsoring of ecological battalions; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal in the Ministry to engage army soldiers in wildlife conservation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The existing Ecological Task Forces (ETFs) Scheme was initiated by the Ministry of Defence in 1982 with a view to securing involvement of ex-servicemen in afforestation and eco-development in remote

and difficult areas to undertake restoration of degarded eco systems through afforestation, soil conservaton and water resource management techniques. At present there are four Eco-Task Force Battalions raised with the Regular and Territorial Army Personnel, located in the Shivalik Hills (Dehradun), Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), Jammu & Kashmir and Pithoragarh (Uttaranchal).

The substantive Scheme is administered by the Ministry of Defence and reimbursement of the expenditure is made by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Environmental clearance to projects

2640. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether overhaul of environment clearance regulations has been done and has been now submitted to PM for final approval;

(b) if so, by what time these new rules are likely to be announced;

(c) to what extent the new rules will help in immediate clearance of projects by both the Center and States; and

(d) whether at present it take longer time in according environmental clearance to the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the existing Environment Impact Assessment notification, 1994, 120 days is the prescribed period for granting environmental clearance from date of receipt of application with requisite documents and informaton.

Polavaram Project

2641. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: